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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,117	10/28/2003	Darin Trees	1331300-0303	6098

7590 02/28/2007  
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Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C.  
Two Union Square  
1000 Tallan Building  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

EXAMINER
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AMERSON, LORI BAKER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3764

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/695,117	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TREES, DARIN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Lori Amerson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/28/03;5/26/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

a. Claims 1, 3-9, 13-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hullett et al in view of Comerreski. Hullett et al disclose a base 100, support frame 161, a carriage 211 having a lower section and upper section pivotally attached to the lower section, a left foot rest and right foot rest 310, a pair of hand grips 435, a lift mechanism 140, pivotal foot rests (fig. 2), ROM stop in figure 2, column 6, lines 15-38, and upper leg support 215, a tilt mechanism 152, 154 and a digital readout in figure 5. Hullett et al discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for a restraining belt. Comerreski provides a restraining belt. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a restraining belt in order to secure a user on the device.

b. Claims 1,4-8, 10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Comerreski. Wang discloses a base 7, support frame 19, a carriage 5 having a lower section and upper section pivotally attached to the lower section, a left foot rest and right foot rest 27, a lift mechanism 11, pivotal foot rests (fig. 4), ROM stop in 29, and a tilt mechanism.

Wang discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for a restraining belt. Comerreski provides a restraining belt. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a restraining belt in order to secure a user on the device.

c. Claims 2, 11-12 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang and Comerreski in view of Lee. Wang and Comerreski disclose all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for an ankle support, signaling mechanism, fixing mechanism and a timer. Lee teaches an ankle support in figure 1, signaling mechanism 50, fixing mechanism 14 and a timer in figure 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a timer to record intervals of use, an ankle support for stability, a signaling device in order to provide feedback while the device is in use.

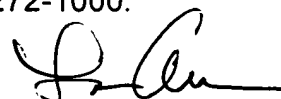
***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claim 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori Amerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4971. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Tue,Thur-Fri. Interviews Tue. and Thur..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



LORI AMERSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER